

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 13, cancelled claims 14-16 and added new claims 17-25. Support for the newly added limitations can be found at page 7, last line, to page 8, line 3; page 8, line 7 to page 9, line 11; page 22, line 2 to page 23, line 5; page 23, lines 8-12. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 9 and 13-15 have been rejected under § 102(a) as being anticipated by German '105. Further, claims 10-12 have been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over German '105 and “further in view of Official Notice of Common Knowledge in the Art, and/or in the alternative Engineering Design Choice”. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Of the pending claims, claims 9 and 13 are in independent form. Referring to Figure 1 of the subject application, according to the invention, the rolling elements are insertable in the state that the inner and outer rings (the bearing rings) are assembled as shown. Specifically, as shown in Figure 1, the rolling elements 5 are insertable as indicated by the arrow entitled “INSERTION DIRECTION”. In addition, the rolling elements are rotatable using the groove formed in the bearing ring after the rolling elements have been inserted into the space defined between the

bearing rings. This is also shown by the arrow in Figure 1. Further, the rolling elements are assembled into the bearing rings so that the rolling surface of the rolling elements contact the raceway surface of the bearing ring. By virtue of these features, the claimed invention provides for improved assembly as compared to the prior art, such as that cited by the Examiner. For example, with respect to German '105, even a cursory review of the figures shows that the bearing disclosed therein does not anticipate or render obvious that which is recited in claims 9 and 13, and their respective dependent claims.

Further, Applicants traverse the Examiner's "Official Notice" with respect to claims 10-12. In particular, the Examiner fails to clearly articulate the specific limitations of the claims which are deemed to be obvious in view of the Official Notice taken and, therefore, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prime facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application S.N.: 10/501,213
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q82529

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

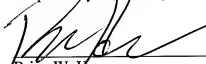
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Date: November 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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